

Minutes

Meeting: Council on Coastal Futures

Place: NOAA Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
North Charleston, South Carolina

Date: March 7, 2003

Present:	William W. Jones, Jr., Chairman	Barrett Lawrimore
	William D. Baughman	Tom Leath
	Dana Beach	Rep. Dwight Loftis
	Paul G. Campbell, Jr.	John Miglarese
	Barbara Catenaci	John Settle
	Jesse Dove	Jack W. Shuler
	James Frazier	Mike Wooten
	Fred Holland	Ellison D. Smith, IV
	Sen. John Kuhn	

Absent: James S. Chandler, Jr.
Hank Johnston

Item I. Welcome

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. and asked the Secretary to call the roll. There were 17 members present, thus establishing a quorum.

Chairman Jones stated that the news media and concerned citizens were notified, as required by the State Freedom of Information Act, of the following scheduled meeting:

Council on Coastal Futures
9:30 a.m., March 7, 2003
NOAA Coastal Services Center, North Charleston, South Carolina

Chairman Jones stated that the Council has, therefore, complied with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Item II. Administrative Items

Chairman Jones announced the appointment of Jesse Dove as the Co-Chair of the Council.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 7, 2003, meeting. Mr. Campbell made a motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to adopt the minutes. The motion carried.

Chairman Jones announced that the Council would be traveling to other parts of the state in order to encourage public comment from various areas of the coastal zone. As such, he announced that the April meeting of the Council would be held at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Myrtle Beach.

Item III. Stakeholder Presentations

Mr. Duncan Newkirk and Mr. Neil Robinson of the South Carolina Tourism Council made a presentation to the Council. The Tourism Council would like to see a streamlined process for coastal permitting, consisting of one state permit, combining the permitting processes of the state permitting agencies and the resource agencies with OCRM having the final authority to issue permits. The Tourism Council believes that the appeals process is too lengthy and burdensome. The process of appeals going to the Coastal Zone Management Appellate Panel needs to be changed. They believe that the process of an automatic stay on a project that is appealed needs to be abolished. They would like to see regulation changes affecting docks and marinas and access to small islands, also.

Mr. Settle relayed to the Council the comments of the South Carolina Association of Realtors. They reviewed the outline provided by the Tourism Council and agreed with the Tourism Council's comments. Mr. Preston Hipp, a real estate developer, addressed the group. He expressed a desire to see a more streamlined permitting process.

Mr. Elliott Locklair of the South Carolina Landowners Association made the next presentation to the group. The Association believes that OCRM should take the lead in educating the public about best management practices. Mr. David Lucas, also of the Landowners Association, addressed the Council regarding private property rights. He believes that property rights equate to human rights. Mr. Ben Coker, also with the Landowners Association, spoke to the Council regarding property rights. He believes that OCRM has exceeded its authority by delineating wetlands. He wants to see family exemptions from wetland regulations.

Item IV. Council Discussion of Stakeholder Presentations

The Council had a general discussion about the information that had been presented to them by the Tourism Council, the Realtors Association and the Landowners Association. After hearing the presentations, among the issues the Council wants to focus on are streamlining the permitting process, reforming the appeals process and educating the public about regulations and procedures.

Item V. Permitting Processes – Successes and Challenges

The Council then heard presentations from OCRM staff members. Frank Lopez made a presentation on "Coastal Management in South Carolina: Past, Present & Future," an outline of the evolution of the Coastal Management Act in South Carolina. Next, Richard Chinnis made a presentation on the regulatory programs division. He emphasized the need to focus on alternative dispute resolution, private dock appeals and revising the public hearing process. The final staff presentation was on Isolated Wetlands from Rob Mikell. Mr. Mikell explained the

importance of isolated wetlands and how they are regulated. He asked the Council to look at what the isolated wetland management program for South Carolina should be.

Item VII. Council Discussion – Permitting Process Recommendations

Following the staff presentations, the Council began a discussion to determine its focus for streamlining the regulatory process as follows:

- Consolidate the issuance of an OCRM permit and the EQC Water Quality Certification into one permitting process
- Establish a timeline for permit processing and action
- OCRM should not deny or refuse to issue a permit based on the objection of another resource agency unless the objection is deemed material
- Eliminate the automatic stay of a permit upon appeal
- Require demonstration of standing for appeals
- Give option of community dock in lieu of individual docks without designation of marina
- Regulations for access to islands should be revised to eliminate public need requirement
- Initiate an alternative dispute resolution process possibly funded by leasing of state wetlands
- Revise the public hearing process

Item VIII. Vision Statement

The Council adopted the following Vision Statement: A Coastal Zone Management Program committed to sustaining the character of the coast through the integration of healthy economies and healthy ecosystems for future generations of South Carolina.

Item IX. Next Steps – April 4 Meeting

The location of the next meeting was discussed. The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Conference Center in Myrtle Beach. A brief discussion followed regarding the need to encourage public comment and the possible trepidation of some members of the regulated community to come forward with their comments. The consensus was that the meetings would remain open to both the public and OCRM staff, and that comments would continue to be encouraged both verbally and written, with the possibility of a subcommittee being formed to review written comments.

Item IX. Questions and Closure

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Janet M. Kruger
Secretary to the Council